



Dear Readers,

What a busy weekend we have this June 19, 2022. Yes, it is Father's Day on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and Juneteenth National Independence Day on the same day. And my niece, Dr. Kai Bowers Palm's birthday is on that same day, too!

Now, Juneteenth, is extremely Important for many reasons. Do you understand why? What are we to do? Is this holiday a celebration for everyone in the United States of America?

I am grateful to offer you more information about Juneteenth. I did some research on various sites on the computer. The following information was taken from Wikipedia. We can learn together. Please be sure to get your family involved, too. It's great to learn! -Wanda J. Burnside, Founder and Publisher

**Juneteenth**<sup>[6]</sup> (officially **Juneteenth National Independence Day**, and also known as, **Jubilee Day**,<sup>[3]</sup> **Emancipation Day**,<sup>[4][5]</sup> **Freedom Day**, and **Black Independence Day**<sup>[6]</sup>) is a [federal holiday](#) in the [United States](#) commemorating emancipation of [enslaved African Americans](#). It is also often observed for celebrating [African-American culture](#). Originating in [Galveston, Texas](#), it has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when [President Joe Biden](#) signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law.<sup>[7][8]</sup> Juneteenth's commemoration is on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of [General Order No. 3](#) by [Union Army](#) general [Gordon Granger](#), proclaiming freedom for enslaved people in Texas,<sup>[9]</sup> which was the last state of the [Confederacy](#) with institutional slavery.

President [Abraham Lincoln](#)'s [Emancipation Proclamation](#), issued on January 1, 1863, had freed the enslaved people in Texas and all the other Southern secessionist states of the Confederacy except for parts of states not in rebellion.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Enforcement of the Proclamation generally relied upon the advance of Union troops. Texas, as the most remote state of the former Confederacy, had seen an expansion of slavery and had a low presence of Union troops as the [American Civil War](#) ended; thus, enforcement there had been slow and inconsistent prior to Granger's announcement.<sup>[9]</sup> Although the Emancipation Proclamation declared an end to slavery in the [Confederate States](#), it did not end slavery in states that remained in the Union. For a short while after the fall of

the Confederacy, slavery remained legal in two of the [Union border states](#) – Delaware and Kentucky.<sup>[12][13][d]</sup> Those enslaved people were freed with the ratification of the [Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution](#), which abolished [chattel slavery](#) nationwide on December 6, 1865. The last enslaved people present in the continental United States were freed when the enslaved people held by the [Choctaw](#) (in the [Indian Territories](#)), who had sided with the Confederacy, were released in 1866.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

Celebrations date to 1866, at first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas. They spread across [the South](#) and became more commercialized in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a [food festival](#). Participants in the [Great Migration](#) out of the South carried their celebrations to other parts of the country. During the [Civil Rights Movement](#) of the 1960s, these celebrations were eclipsed by the [nonviolent](#) determination to achieve civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African American freedom and [African-American arts](#). Beginning with Texas by proclamation in 1938, and by legislation in 1979, each [U.S. state](#) and the [District of Columbia](#) have formally recognized the holiday in some way. With its adoption in certain parts of Mexico, the holiday became an international holiday. Juneteenth is celebrated by the [Mascogos](#), descendants of [Black Seminoles](#) who escaped from slavery in 1852 and settled in [Coahuila, Mexico](#).<sup>[16][17]</sup>

Celebratory traditions often include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, singing traditional songs such as "[Swing Low, Sweet Chariot](#)" and "[Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)", and the reading of works by noted [African-American](#) writers, such as [Ralph Ellison](#) and [Maya Angelou](#). Some Juneteenth celebrations also include [rodeos](#), [street fairs](#), [cookouts](#), [family reunions](#), park parties, [historical reenactments](#), and Miss Juneteenth contests. When Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021,<sup>[18][19]</sup> it was the first new federal holiday since [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) was adopted in 1983.

## Emancipation Day Celebration in 1900



**Source... Austin History Center, Austin Public Library**

## 2020 Trump campaign scheduling controversy

In 2020, controversy ensued when President [Donald Trump](#) initially scheduled a [presidential campaign](#) rally—his first political rally since the onset of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) in the United States—for June 19 in [Tulsa, Oklahoma](#), the site of the [1921 race massacre](#) in the [Greenwood district](#). Critics viewed the rally's scheduling and location as a form of racial [dog whistle](#) to far-right extremists within Trump's political base.<sup>[88][89]</sup> Two days after announcing the rally in Tulsa, President Trump asked a Black secret service agent about Juneteenth. "Yes, I know what it is," the agent said to Trump, "and it's very offensive to me that you're having this rally on Juneteenth." That night, Trump tweeted that he wished to change the date of his rally, and postponed it by one day to June 20.<sup>[90]</sup>

## Becoming a federal holiday

In 1996, the first federal legislation to recognize "Juneteenth Independence Day" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.J. Res. 195, sponsored by [Barbara-Rose Collins](#) (D-MI). In 1997, Congress recognized the day through Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56. In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 175, acknowledging Lula Briggs Galloway (late president of the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage), who "successfully worked to bring national recognition to Juneteenth Independence Day", and the continued leadership of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.<sup>[91]</sup>

In the 2000s and 2010s, activists continued a long process to push Congress towards official recognition of Juneteenth.<sup>[92]</sup> Organizations such as the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation sought a Congressional designation of Juneteenth as a national day of observance.<sup>[9]</sup> In 2016, [Opal Lee](#), often referred to as the "grandmother of Juneteenth", walked from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington D.C. to advocate for a federal holiday.<sup>[93]</sup> When it was officially made a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, it became one of five date-specific federal holidays along with New Year's Day (January 1), Independence Day (July 4), Veterans Day (November 11), and Christmas Day (December 25). Juneteenth will coincide with [Father's Day](#) in 2022, 2033, 2039, 2044, and 2050. Juneteenth is the first new federal holiday since [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) was declared a holiday in 1986. Juneteenth also falls within the statutory [Honor America Days](#) period, which lasts for 21 days from [Flag Day](#) (June 14) to [Independence Day](#) (July 4).

## National

**Juneteenth National Independence Day Act**



**Long title** To amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday.

**Enacted by** the [117th United States Congress](#)

**Effective** June 17, 2021

#### [Legislative history](#)

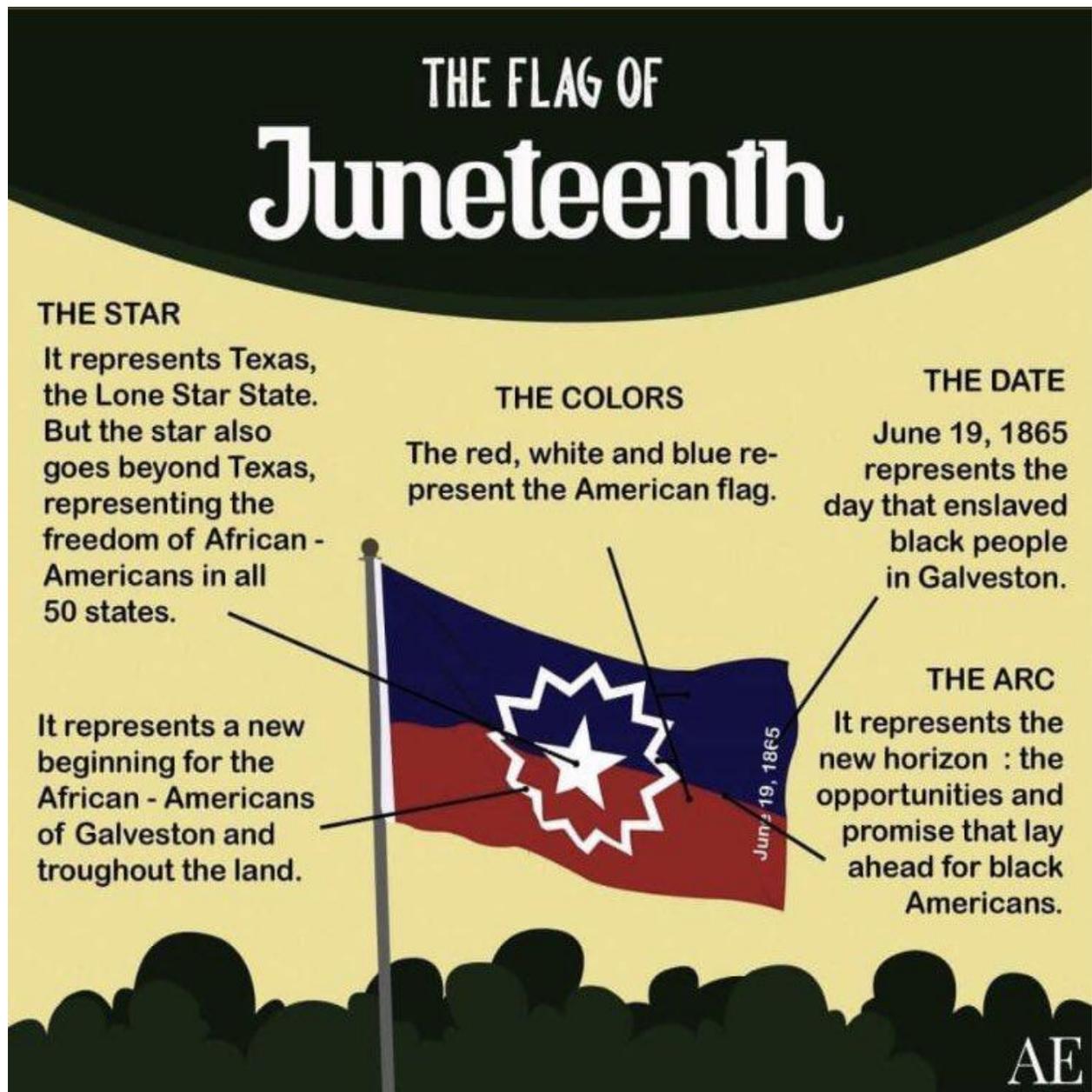
- **Introduced** in the Senate as [S. 475](#) by [Ed Markey \(D-MA\)](#) on February 25, 2021
- **Committee consideration** by [Senate Judiciary](#)
- **Passed the Senate** on June 15, 2021 ([unanimous consent](#))
- **Passed the House** on June 16, 2021 ([415-14](#))
- **Signed into law** by President [Joe Biden](#) on June 17, 2021



President Joe Biden signed the [Juneteenth National Independence Day Act](#) into law, June 17, 2021

Juneteenth is a [federal holiday](#) in the United States. For decades, activists and congress members (led by many African Americans) proposed legislation, advocated for, and built support for state and national observances. During his campaign for president in June 2020, [Joe Biden](#) publicly celebrated the holiday.<sup>[114]</sup> [President Donald Trump](#), during his campaign for reelection, added making the day a national holiday part of his "[Platinum Plan for Black America](#)".<sup>[115]</sup> Spurred on by the advocates and

the [Congressional Black Caucus](#), on June 15, 2021, the [Senate unanimously](#) passed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act,<sup>[18]</sup> establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday; it subsequently passed through the [House of Representatives](#) by a 415–14 vote on June 16.<sup>[116][117]</sup> [President Joe Biden](#) signed the bill ([Pub.L. 117–17 \(text\)](#) [\(PDF\)](#))<sup>[118][119]</sup> on June 17, 2021, making Juneteenth the eleventh American federal holiday and the first to obtain legal observance as a federal holiday since [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) was designated in 1983.<sup>[120][121][122]</sup> According to the bill, federal government employees will now get to take the day off every year on June 19, or should the date fall on a Saturday or Sunday, they will get the Monday or Friday closest to the Saturday or Sunday on which the date falls.<sup>[123]</sup>



**READERS,**  
***Our Father's Day issue***  
***is coming next week!***

## **A Father's Day Prayer**

**God,**  
**Bless all the fathers in the**  
**world. Father, we ask that You**  
**guide them to be good role**  
**models and loving to their**  
**children. We also ask that You**  
**help them to be a father like**  
**You are. Give them grace and**  
**patience to handle situations**  
**in a loving way.**

**Amen**



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